

College years - This time is all the time you have...

How then can one use the college time effectively? [Sunil Karve](#) puts down some basic principles...

“Those were the best days of my life.....”

Down the years will you be able to say this about your college days? College years are undoubtedly the most important years. If utilized correctly, these can be fertile grounds for breeding a sense of purpose in one’s life. These years will NEVER return even though one may be willing to pay a huge sum for it.

‘Groom yourself’ Principle – A qualification can be procured through distance learning, online or regular college. Day scholars have the opportunity to groom their overall personality through their interactions and participation in the various college activities. Use your college time to enhance various factors of your personality.

Principle of ‘Understand yourself’ –

Unlike computers, all human beings come with the same configuration. You must firmly believe this. Don’t restrict yourself; understand that everyone has been gifted with the same capacity. Intelligence in all person’s stems out of understanding. If you understand yourself correctly you WILL become what you want to be.

Blotting Paper Principle – Think of yourself as a blotting paper. Thus, soak in all that is happening at college. Colleges are learning centers, facilitators and platforms for higher learning and there is no spoon-feeding. Observe all the activities at college and try and be a part of various activities. Look for a mix of academic, co-curricular and extra curricular activities, as this will facilitate maximum learning.

Principle of 'Ask and you shall receive' – Globalization has started forcing colleges to update themselves. The student is the customer and colleges are service providers. Students must keep the management on their toes by proactively and assertively placing their demands. The benefits will be enjoyed for many batches following yours.

Principle of 'Be Aware'

Observe and understand the facilities available in college. Each activity/facility has its own importance. Studies show that many times students are unaware of all the facilities available at college. The library, canteen, recreation centre, classroom, computer laboratory, each has treasures of fun and knowledge to offer. The onus lies on you to explore and use all that is available for you at college.

Principle of 'College = 2nd home'- Spend as much time as possible in college – studying, playing, participating, surfing, discussing, brainstorming, reading. Anyone with an open-minded attitude will find the 16 waking hours insufficient.

College years are an opportunity placed before you. You may choose to be lazy and complain or else be proactive and make a difference. The choice is YOURS.

Prominent educationist, [Sunil Karve](#), Founder Trustee and Vice Chairman - MET League of Colleges has authored this article.